

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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R 250933Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7512

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EAID, MP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BY HEAD OF MAURITIUS DEPARTMENT  
OF CIVIL AVIATION

1. ON MAY 18, 1978, MR. L. SOOBARAH, THE HEAD OF THE MAURITIUS DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION ASKED EMBASSY TO RELAY AN INFORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE MAURITIUS TO REALIZE AMBITIOUS AND NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS TRAINING AND FLIGHT HANDLING CAPABILITIES. SOOBARAH SAID THAT HIS REQUEST FALLS INTO THREE DIFFERENT AREAS OF FLIGHT HANDLING AND SERVICING: OVERSEAS TRAINING ASSISTANCE; THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN RUNNING DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS WHILE MAURITIANS ARE TRAINED FOR THE SAME DUTIES; THE PROVISION OF TRAINING AIDS AND EQUIPMENT TO HELP MAURITIANS TRAIN AND KEEP QUALIFIED ITS OWN PERSONNEL IN THE ROUTINE, BASIC DUTIES REQUIRED FOR DAY TO DAY MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING OF AIRCRAFT AND AIRPORT MACHINERY.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION'S TRAINING PROGRAM IS ESTIMATED TO COST U.S. DOLLARS 2,093 MILLION OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD. OF THIS FIGURE THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE U.S. DOLLARS 285,000 AND THE UNDP WILL  
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CONTRIBUTE U.S. DOLLARS 200,000. THE REMAINING SHORTFALL OF U.S. DOLLARS 1.6 MILLION WOULD BE NEEDED AND PROGRAMMED AS FOLLOWS: U.S. DOLLARS 939,000 FOR INSTRUCTORS AND EXPERTS; U.S. DOLLARS 584,000 FOR AERONAUTICAL FELLOWSHIPS; AND U.S. DOLLARS 85,000 FOR TRAINING AIDS AND EQUIPMENT. THE MAURITIUS CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO TRAIN SEVEN PILOTS

FOR AIR MAURITIUS (FIVE AIRLINE PILOTS AND TWO HELICOPTER PILOTS), A FULL COMPLEMENT OF GROUND CONTROL SPECIALISTS, AND FLIGHT AND GROUND MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS. THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION ALSO ENVISIONS THE NEED FOR THREE ENGINEERS, TO SUPERVISE THE STRUCTURAL, AERODYNAMICAL, AND OTHER RELATED TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED NEW AIRPORT, WHICH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE NORTH OF THE ISLAND.

3. SOOBARAH SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED TO PROVIDE SOME OF THE REQUIRED ASSISTANCE BUT HE EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF PILOT AND GROUND CONTROL TRAINING AND IN PROVIDING TRAINING EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO CARRY OUT THE BASIC TRAINING NEEDS OF HIS DEPARTMENT. HE ESTIMATED THE COSTS FOR THIS SEGMENT OF PROGRAM (TRAINING PLUS EQUIPMENT) WOULD BE ABOUT U.S. DOLLARS 315,000.

4. SOOBARAH ADDED THAT IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER ASSISTANCE IN ANY OF THESE AREAS, HE WOULD PREPARE A FORMAL REQUEST FOR THOSE SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED. HE ALSO ASKED IF IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM AND FOR OTHER OFFICIALS IN HIS DEPARTMENT TO MEET AND DISCUSS MAURITIAN NEEDS WITH US OFFICIALS AND US BUSINESSMEN

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AT THE UPCOMING ICAO MEETING IN GENEVA, WHICH WILL BEGIN IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON TYPE OF INITIAL RESPONSE WE MIGHT PROVIDE TO GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS' INFORMAL REQUEST. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN TRAINING AREA. NAMES OF US CONTACTS FOR MAURITIANS TO MEET DURING ICAO GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.

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## Message Attributes

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